

In the claims:

1. (canceled)
2. (canceled)
3. (currently amended) A dual fishing rod holder comprising:
 - a tip-down fishing rod holder adapted for insertion into a fishing rod handle receiver installed on a boat, said tip-down fishing rod holder being substantially L-shaped and having a proximal end and a distal end, and said tip-down fishing rod holder being secured at its proximal end to the receiver and extending rearwardly and at an angle from the receiver;
 - a fastener ~~at~~ supported from the distal end of the tip-down fishing rod holder by a flexible element, wherein the fastener is adapted to ~~secure~~ engage a reel eye of a first fishing reel connected to a first fishing rod and freely suspend the first fishing rod; and
 - a tip-up fishing rod holder coupled to the proximal end of the tip-down fishing rod holder disposed at an angle relative to the first fishing rod holder, said tip-up fishing rod holder adapted to securely receive a handle of a second fishing rod and hold said second fishing rod at a substantial angle relative to the first fishing rod;wherein the second fishing rod holder is secured at a distance from the top of the proximal end of the first fishing rod holder.
4. (currently amended) A dual fishing rod holder comprising:

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a first fishing rod support having a proximal section and distal section, wherein said proximal section is formed at an angle relative to the distal section and said proximal section is adapted for insertion into a fishing rod handle receiver installed on a boat;

a fastener coupled to the distal section of the fishing rod support, wherein the fastener is adapted to ~~secure~~ engage and support a reel of a first fishing rod; and

a fishing rod holder fixedly coupled to and substantially parallel to the proximal section of the fishing rod support, said fishing rod holder adapted to securely receive a handle of a second fishing rod and hold said second fishing rod at a substantial angle relative to the first fishing rod;

wherein the second fishing rod holder is secured at a fixed distance from the top of the proximal end of the first fishing rod holder.

5. (currently amended) A dual fishing rod holder comprising:

a first tube characterized by a proximal section and distal, said first tube having a bend forming an angle between said proximal section and distal section;

a fastener coupled to the distal section of said first tube, said fastener ~~couplable to~~ engaging a reel of a first fishing rod ~~and adapted to~~ secure the first fishing rod; and

a second tube coupled to the proximal section of the first tube and at an angle relative to the distal section of

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the first tube, said second tube adapted to receive a handle of a second fishing pole;

wherein the proximal section of the first tube is so sized and dimensioned to be inserted into a receiver for the fishing rod holder on a boat.

6. (previously presented) The dual fishing rod holder of claim 5 wherein the fastener coupled to the distal section of the first tube is adapted to allow at least two degrees of freedom in the first fishing rod when the first fishing rod is coupled to the fastener.

7. (previously presented) The dual fishing rod holder of claim 3 wherein the distance from the top of proximal end of the first fishing rod holder to the second fishing rod holder is fixed.

8. (currently amended) The dual fishing rod holder of claim 3 wherein the ~~fastener~~ flexible member comprises a cord ~~and a hook~~.

9. (previously presented) The dual fishing rod holder of claim 3 wherein the tip-down fishing rod holder is an aluminum or steel cylindrical tube.

10. (previously presented) The dual fishing rod holder of claim 4 wherein the fastener comprises a cord and a hook.

11. (previously presented) The dual fishing rod holder of claim 4 wherein the fishing rod support is unitary structured.

12. (previously presented) The dual fishing rod holder of claim 5 wherein the fastener comprises a cord with a hook.

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13. (previously presented) The dual fishing rod holder of claim 5 wherein the fastener coupled to the distal section of the first tube is adapted to allow three degrees of freedom in the first fishing rod when the first fishing rod is coupled to the fastener.

14. (previously presented) The dual fishing rod holder of claim 3 wherein the a tip-down fishing rod holder is a formed cylindrical tube and the tip-up fishing rod holder is a straight cylindrical tube.

15. (previously presented) The dual fishing rod holder of claim 4 wherein the fishing rod support is a formed tube and the fishing rod holder is a straight tube.

16. (New) The dual fishing rod holder of claim 3 wherein the flexible member comprises a strap.

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Interview Summary

In a telephonic interview between Examiner Parsley and Paul Backofen with Marc Frechette conducted January 17, 2006 agreement was reached with respect to all of the claims in question.

Claims 3, 4, and 5 to be amended to point out that the fastener referred to in the claims engages one or more eyes on a reel and supports the reel, which supports the fishing rod. No cited art teaches supporting a fishing rod by supporting the reel to which the rod is connected.

This amendment would overcome the Malmberg (5,778,592) reference and the Stokes (5,673,507) reference and thus would place all the claims in condition for allowance.